



Date: March 29, 2016

To: Regional Planning Committee

From: Miriam Chion, ABAG Planning & Research Director

Subject: Overview Session April 6, 2016

At our February meeting, Councilmember Pradeep Gupta became our new chair and Councilmember Julie Combs became the new vice-chair of the Regional Planning Committee for the 2016-18 period. We had a substantial discussion on housing production and the equity framework for Plan Bay area. We also had a briefing from Julie Pierce, ABAG President, on the ABAG-MTC merger study.

For the April session we will discuss the draft regional Housing Action Agenda and the ABAG-MTC Merger Study. The ABAG Executive Board accepted the **Housing Action Agenda** at the March meeting and asked staff to proceed with discussion and development of Key Activities: Collaboration and Tools, Renovation Innovation, and Regional Housing Trust Fund. The approach, scope, and engagement on these key activities will be the focus of our discussion at our April meeting.

The ABAG-MTC **Merger Study** discussion will focus on the recent report from Management Partners, which includes a financial assessment, proposed merger study principles, problem definitions, range of options, and evaluation criteria (For more information <http://www.mtcabagmergerstudy.com/> ). This report was presented at the Joint ABAG/MTC Committee on march 25 and it was the main topic of discussion at the ABAG Administrative Committee retreat on March 28.

## **Agenda for 2016**

Chair Gupta and Vice-chair Combs met to discuss the agenda for the subsequent RPC meetings in 2016. We reviewed the schedule of Plan Bay Area and the merger study as well as some of the comprehensive regional tasks related to housing, jobs, infrastructure, and services. In general, we expect to have a planning item and a merger item for the next three meetings. The planning items will inform policies and strategies in Plan Bay Area as well as some of the key implementation tasks on housing, economic prosperity and resilience. In order to define the specific agenda items, we will be sending a survey to

committee members to get input on the priorities for discussion. We would appreciate your response.

## **Regional Planning Committee – Subcommittees**

Over the past two years we had three RPC subcommittees that focused on Place-making, Entitlement Efficiency, and Economic Prosperity. These subcommittees allow more in-depth discussion on needed regional strategies and ensure broader representation of voices and cities. These subcommittees guided the production of the Place-Making Report, the industrial land and jobs study and the memo on entitlement efficiency strategies. We would like to acknowledge the valuable input from the subcommittee members.

As we move into the 2016-18 cycle, Chair Gupta and Vice-chair Combs will focus on three subcommittees described below:

- **Housing:** The main purpose of this subcommittee is to focus on the draft regional Housing Action Agenda with a particular emphasis on prioritizing specific collaboration efforts and tools, identifying renovation innovation projects, and developing the Regional Housing Trust Fund.
- **Economic Prosperity:** This subcommittee will continue the work of the previous subcommittee on middle-wage jobs and Priority Industrial Areas. The focus of this year will be designating the nine county Bay Area as a Regional Economic Development District (EDD) that will support economic and workforce development efforts through grants, technical assistance and partnerships with other public and private entities.
- **Infrastructure Resilience:** This subcommittee will be addressing the seismic, flooding, and climate change risks and strategies to improve the resilience of our regional infrastructure. The focus of this year will be water resources and reliability.

If you are interested in participating in any of these subcommittees, please let me know ([MiriamC@abag.ca.gov](mailto:MiriamC@abag.ca.gov)).

## **Ongoing efforts**

- ABAG General Assembly 2016, **The Future of Regional Planning**, Thursday, April 21, 2016, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.  
(<http://abag.ca.gov/events/ga/2016/>)
- **Bay Trail Openings**
  - Sunday, May 15. 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Opening of 2.5 new Bay Trail miles in Sonoma County at the Sears Point Restoration area. Ceremony will be held at the end of Reclamation Road off of Highway 37.
  - Friday, May 20. 11:00 a.m. Re-opening of 4 miles of Bay Trail between Sunnyvale and Mountain View with a new trail surface provided by Google. The event will take place at the Carl Road trailhead in Sunnyvale.
  - All Bay Trail events are posted at [www.baytrail.org/news-events](http://www.baytrail.org/news-events)
- **Plan Bay Area Public Workshops**, late Spring 2016